Lesson 1: و ، فـ ، ثُمَّ ، أو ، أم

Some uses of واو

واو الــعــطــف. This is the simple "and" we know and love. In technical terms, it joins the subsequent word (the مـعـطـوف) to the previous one as a participant in, or recipient of, the same action. Due to this joining, مـعـطـوف words receive the same إعراب as their predecessor. Phrases and sentences can also be joined via واو الـعـطـف, although they cannot receive the same إعراب and are simply considered مـعـطـوف in spirit (تقديرا), while their actual إعراب will follow normal rules of grammar.

أكلتُ موزةً وتفاحةً — I ate the banana and [I ate] the apple.

جاء محمدُ وزيدٌ — Muhammad [came] and Zayd came.

هو رجل جيد في الإخلاق والتربيةِ — He's a good guy in morals and [in] upbringing.

هو مجتهد في عمله وصريح في كلامه — He's diligent in his work and [he is] forthright in his speech. (implied عطف)

The **واو الابـتـداء** or **واو الاسـتـئـنـاف** plays the role that commas, periods, dashes, and parentheses do in English in indicating the end of the old thought and the beginning of a new one (or its interruption and resumption). Thus it is usually not rendered as 'and' but is instead graphically represented through punctuation.

أحبه ولكني لا أريد التزوج — I love him, but [new thought] I don't want to marry.

والدي واسمه أحمد يعمل مدرساً — My father, whose name is Ahmad, works as a teacher.

Some uses of فاء

فـاء الـتـرتـيـب. This works basically like واو الـعـطـف except that it designates sequence, order, or arrangement (تـرتـيـب) with a short interval between each item. This can work with simple noun phrases or whole sentences. Compare the following two examples:

جاء محمدُ وزيدٌ — [واو العطف] — both M. and Z. came together at the same time

جاء محمدُ فزيدٌ — [فاء الترتيب] — first M. came, and then Z.

فـاء الـتـعـلـيـل. Literally, "the *fa'* of interpretation". Used to link together two phrases or sentences in a causative relationship. It is often translated as "so" or "therefore".

أنا متعب فسوف أنام مبكراً — I'm tired, **so** I will sleep early.

جرس الباب فقمتُ وفتحتُه — The door rang, **so** I got up and opened it.

فـاء الـسـبـبـيـة. This is typically used with verbs that demonstrate the result of a wish or command (في جواب نفي أو طلَب). The affected verb is rendered منصوب.

لا تخرج في المطر فتمرضَ — Don't go out in the rain and [thus] catch cold.

The use of ثمَ

ثـم basically works like فـاء الـتـرتـيـب, except that, while the latter indicates a quick succession between A and B, the former indicates a longer interval of time (التراخي في الزمن).

جاء محمدُ ، ثمَّ زيدُ — First came Muhammad, then (some while later) came Zayd.

The two ways of saying 'or': أَوْ and أَمْ

أو is used when you are offering suggested alternatives out of basically limitless options:

سنسافر إلى لندن أو باريس أو روما — We'll travel to London, Paris, or Rome.

تحب أن تشرب قهوة أو شاي؟ — Would you like to drink coffee, or tea? [among other things]

أم is used when choosing between only two possible options, usually in an interrogative sense.

هل هذا صحيح أم لا؟ — Is this right, or not?

هل بيتك قريب من هنا أم بعيد؟ — Is your house near or far from here?

Note. There are actually two interrogative particles to know about, هل and أ.

هل : Officially, this is used only for تصديق, a question that requires a 'yes' or 'no' answer, like:

هل اسمك أحمد؟

هل هذا صحيح؟

هل تحب القهوة؟

أ : This particle is used both for تصديق (yes/no questions) *and* for تصوير (wondering, speculating), which can take a range of possible answers. Therefore, it is more appropriate to use أ when choosing between various options, but in modern standard Arabic أ and هل have become rather conflated and most people don't think about it.

أليس كذلك؟ — Is this not so? (تصديق)

أأنت أحمد أم محمد؟ — Are you Ahmad or Muhammad? (تصوير)

أبيتك قريب أم بعيد؟ — Is your house near or far?

أتريد قهوة أم شاي؟ — Do you want coffee or tea?

Lesson 2: واو الحال

The simple حال

واو الـحـال is a very simple concept, yet enormously useful. To best understand it, let us quickly review how the حال in its most basic form works:

دخل الأستاذ **مبتسماً** — The professor entered the room, **smiling**.

زارت أختها **قادمةً** من كندا — She visited her sister, **coming** from Canada.

The حـال describes the *state* or *condition* of the subject at the time of the action. The state must be a temporary one (we cannot say دخـل الأسـتـاذ طـويـلاً, because presumably he'll be just as tall the next day). This can range from a short-term activity like reading or dancing to a period of one's life:

سافرتُ إلى بحرين **صغيراً** — I traveled to Bahrain [while I was] **young**.

The simple حال is usually expressed by an اسـم فاعل , اسـم مفـعول , مصـدر , or صفة (see Ryding p. 283 for examples), and it is always منصوب.

واو الحال The

Instead of a simple حـال, you can also use واو with a clause to create this same circumstantial description. There are many ways to do this:

جملة اسمية + و : This is the easiest and most common way to create a حال clause. Start with واو and follow with a nominal sentence (جملة اسمية). You can't go wrong. Remember that a جملة اسمية consists of a مبتدأ and خبر, and in certain cases, the خبر will precede the مبتدأ (see the third example).

دخل الأستاذ الفصل وهو يبتسم — The prof entered the classroom, smiling.

سـافرت إلى بـاريس وعمري ١٥ سنة — I traveled to Paris when I was 15 years old.

نظرت إليه وعلى وجهِها ابتسامةٌ — She looked at him, a smile on her face.

جملة فعلية + و : This is slightly harder. Your rule of thumb is that the واو *must* be followed by one of the following verb-specific particles:

{ **ما ، قد** } + perfect verbs (أفعال في الماضي)

ذهبت إلى المكتبة وقد تناولت الغداء — I went to the library, having eaten lunch.

رجعت إلى البيت وما أكملت شغلي — I returned home, having not finished my work.

{ **لم ، لا** } + imperfect verbs (أفعال في المضـارع)

دخل الطالب ولم يكملْ واجبَهُ — The student entered, having not finished his homework.

دخل الطالب ولا يكملُ واجبَهُ — The student entered, having not finished his homework.

There is a provision that you can use a simple imperfect verb in the same way as a حـــال construction, but you cannot introduce it with واو:

جاء رجلٌ يتكلم عالياً : A man talking loudly [lit., 'a man he talks loudly'] came.

This is technically not واو الحـال , because there is no واو. The phrase يتكلم عالياً is simply linked to the subject as an adjectival clause; when you get to relative clauses in Ch. 4 you'll see the same logic at work in a sentence like this:

جاء رجلٌ اسمه أحمد : A man whose name is Ahmad [lit., 'a man his name is Ahmad'] came.

The bottom line:

Using واو with a جملة اسمية is by far the easiest way to go, and it's the most common. If you want to use a جملة فعلية, make sure it is preceded by واو + { لم ، لا ، ما ، قد }, or that the verb is a regular imperfect with no واو.

Lesson 3: Also, moreover, similarly

أيضاً ، كذلك

أيضاً (also) and **كذلك** (also, likewise) can be inserted into your sentences without fear; there are no provisions or issues to worry about.

بالإضافة إلى + noun

بالإضافة إلى (in addition to) should be paired with a noun (or something that works as a noun).

أقرأ الكتب بالإضافة إلى المقالات — I read books in addition to articles.

Using فاء

The book gives you three phrases that mean more or less the same thing: **بالإضافة إلى هذا** ('in addition to that'), **إلى جانبِ هذا** ('to the side of this' = besides), and **فوقَ هذا** ('on top of this' = moreover). Joining these with phrases requires you to be aware of a few things:

If your phrase is a **جملة فعلية**, you can go straight into it:

وبالإضافة إلى ذلك ، يسافر كل شهرٍ — In addition to that, he travels every month.
كان مشغولاً وفوق هذا كان مريضاً — He was busy, and moreover he was sick.

If your phrase begins with a pronoun (**ضمير**) or the particles **أنّ** and **قد** , you have to precede it with **فاء**:

بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، فهو مشهور
بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، فإنها تريد أن تسافر
بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، فقد حصل على شاهدته

Using كـ

The **كـ** ('as') can be paired with nouns, verbs, and phrases in the following ways:

1. **كـ** + genitive (**مجرور**) noun: كطالبٍ أسكن قريب من الجامعة — As a student, I live close to the U.

2. **كما** + verb: كما تعرف ، أسكن هنا — As you know, I live here.

3. **كما** + **أنّ** + **جملة اسمية**:

هو طويل كما أنه عريض — He's as tall as he is wide.
أن مهتم بكرة القدم كما أنّ أبي مهتم بكرة السلة — I'm interested in football; my dad is likewise interested in basketball [or: I'm interested in football as my dad is interested in basketball].

Lesson 4: Relative clauses

Relative clauses are doubly marked in a way that is redundant in English but absolutely necessary in Arabic. Basically, the relative clause must carry some referent to the item it's attached to. This is called the **عائـد**, the 'relator' or 'resumptive pronoun'. The عائد agrees with its partner in number and gender.

الرجل الذي رأيتُه — The man who I saw **[him]**
هذا كتابٌ قرأتُه — This is a book I read **[it]**
الولد الذي [هو] يلعب كرة القدم — The boy who **[he]** plays soccer
الصورة التي [هي] على الحائط — The picture **[it is]** on the wall

Three Simple Rules:

1. Definite nouns are linked by a relative pronoun (اسم موصول): الذي ، التي ، الذين, etc.
   هذا هو الكتابُ الذي قرأته — This is the book that I read.

2. Indefinite nouns are not linked by a relative pronoun.
   هذا كتابٌ قرأته — This is a book I read.

3. The relative clause will always have an عائد, whether linked to a definite or indefinite noun.

Note. The عــائـد can appear in many different forms, some of them explicit (such as a direct or indirect object) and some of them implicit (as the subject of a nominal or verbal sentence). The grammar in these cases gets a little knotty, so it's probably better to demonstrate it with a few examples:

هذا هو الفيلم الذي رأيتُه — This is the film that I saw [it].
أينَ الناس الذين تكلمتُ معهم؟ — Where are the people I spoke with [them]?
هذه هي الطالبة التي اسمها فاطمة — This is the student whose [= who her] name is Fatima.
هذا هو الطلب الذي يدرس العربية — This is the student who [he] studies Arabic.
أريد الصورة التي على الحائط — This is the picture which [it] is on the wall.

Non-specific relative pronouns, من and ما

While pronouns like الـذي and الـتـي indicate a degree of specificity (خــاص), the pronouns مــن ('who') and مــا ('which') are general and all-encompassing (عـام); it's the difference between saying 'the one who' with الذي and 'whoever' with من. Although من usually defaults to a masculine singular referent, you can treat it as feminine or plural if you wish to be more specific about the number or gender.

أحبَبتُ من قابلتُ — I liked whom I met.
أحبَبتُ من قابلته — I liked the [male?] one whom I met.
أحبَبُت من قابلتها — I liked the [female] one whom I met.
أحبَبُت [كلَّ] من قابلتهم — I liked [all] [those] whom I met.

Unlike relative clauses that have specific antecedents, مـن and مـا do not always require an عائد, but it's good to use it anyway it to develop the habit.

هذا ما رأيتُ = هذا ما رأيتُه — That's what I saw [it].

Lesson 6: بعد / قبل **with nouns and verbs**

Nouns

قبلَ and **بعدَ** can be directly tied to a noun (اسـم), a pronoun (ضـميـر), a demonstrative noun (اسـم إشـارة), and a verbal noun (مـصـدر) as an إضـافـة construction. The tense in these sentences is determined by context, as the nouns themselves carry no imbedded element of time.

To indicate duration or extent, use بـ + the amount of time.

بعدَ **الفصل** ، أذهب إلى المكتبة — After class, I go to the library [noun].

وصلتُ **قبلَكَ** بخمس دقائق — I arrived before you by five minutes [pronoun].

بعدَ **ذلكَ** ، تكلمنا عن الفن — After that, we talked about art [demonstrative noun].

اشتريت تذكرة الطائرة قبلَ **سفري** بأسبوعين — I bought the plane ticket two weeks before my flight [verbal noun].

بعد / قبل + أنْ + فعل مضارع منصوب :Verbs

In place of a مصدر, you can use بعد أن or قبل أن with an imperfect subjunctive verb (فعل مضارع منصوب).

يقرأ قبلَ أن ينامَ = يقرأ قبلَ نومِهِ — He reads before he sleeps. [= before sleeping]

This أنْ is called **أنْ المصدرية الناصبة للفعل المضارع**, which means that it is essentially taking the place of a verbal noun (مصدر). Hence, it works interchangeably with verbal nouns in the usage described above:

بعد أنْ نتحدثَ (=بعد تَحَدُّثِنا) ، ذهبنا إلى المتحف — After we talked, we went to the museum.

بعد أنْ آكلَ (=بعد أَكْلِي) ، أحب أن أقرأ — After I eat, I like to read.

سيأتي بعد أنْ أتصلَ به (=بعد اتصالي به) — He will come after I call him.

Notice how the tense of the subordinate clause will change on the basis of the main clause. This is very important; since the verb modified by أن is essentially a *maṣdar*, it does not cary any inherent time value and is entirely dependent on the main clause for its tense. Compare the following examples:

بعد أنْ نتحدثَ (=بعد تَحَدُّثِنا) ، ذهبنا إلى المتحف — After we talked (=after talking), we went to the museum

بعد أنْ نتحدثَ (=بعد تَحَدُّثِنا) ، سنذهبُ إلى المتحف — After we talk (=after talking), we will go to the museum.

قبل أن follows the same grammatical logic:

سوف آكلُ قبل أن أنامَ — I will eat before I sleep. [Before sleeping, eating will happen]

آكلُ قبل أن أنامَ — I eat before I sleep. [Before sleeping, eating happens]

أكلتُ قبل أن أنامَ — I ate before I slept. [Before sleeping, eating happened]

In all three cases, the clause introduced by قـبـل أن has not yet happened *relative to the main sentence*. Consider the third example: at the time I ate, I had not yet slept—the sleeping had not yet taken place—hence the مـضـارع. However, since the main clause is in the perfect tense, we can interpret the whole sentence as having happened. Your main rule of thumb is to always use مـضـارع after قـبـل أن, even in sentences that take place in the past.

Verbs: بعد + أنْ + الفعل الماضي

بـعد أنْ may also be paired with a perfect verb. This is technically a different kind of أن than the one used above, but for all intents and purposes it works the same way. Simply use this construction to describe events that have been completed (perfect). Your main verb should also be in the perfect tense.

بعد أن أنهيتُ شغلي ، اتصلتُ بك — After I finished my work, I called you.

رأيتُ صاحبي في السينما بعد أن جلس — I saw my friend in the cinema after he [had] sat down.

REMEMBER: You cannot use قبل أن with a verb in the ماضي.

Different tenses with بعد أن

Compare the following two sentences, and notice how the in the first sentence, we use the مـــاضــي because he did indeed eat dinner; in the second example, we use the مضــارع to show that the eating has not yet happened. When deciding on what tense to use, just ask yourself whether the event has taken place or not.

أراد مشاهدة التلفاز بعد أنْ **تناولَ** العشاء — He wanted to watch TV after he **ate** dinner

أراد مشاهدة التلفاز بعد أنْ **يتناولَ** العشاء — He wanted to watch TV after **eating** [lit., 'he eats'] dinner

Verbs: بعد / قبل + ما + الفعل الماضي

You may also use بعد ما and قبل ما with verbs in the perfect tense, although this is a more colloquial usage. Keep in mind that قبل ما only works with perfect verbs, while قبل أن only works with imperfect verbs.

بعد ما دفع الحساب ، خرج من المطعم = بعد أن دفع الحساب ، خرج من المطعم

انتهيتُ من عملي قبل ما أَتَيْتَ = انتهيتُ من عملي قبل أن تأتيَ

Verbs: بعد ما + الفعل المضارع المرفوع

It is possible, but rare, to see بعد ما used with imperfect (*muḍāriʿ*) verbs. When this happens, the ما has no effect on the verb, and it remains مـرفـوع. In *fuṣḥá*, قـبـل مـا is not used in this way, although it is common in colloquial Arabic.

بعد ما تخبرُني عما حدثٍ، سنتكلم

يفهم النص بعد ما يقرأه مرتين

Lessons 7 & 8: Adversatives

but — لكنْ ، لكنَّ

لكنَّ is one of the sisters of إنّ (إنّ وأخْواتها). Refer to this category in any grammar book for a more thorough presentation of this kind of particle. Its usage can be summarized in two basic rules:

1. Use لكنَّ when introducing a nominal clause (جملة اسمية). It is often preceded by واو, as it introduces a new thought (see Lesson 1). Pronouns like هو and هي will be attached to the particle as لكنّه and لكنّها; the subject of the clause will be rendered منصوب.

   هو مجتهد في دراسته ولكنَّ صديقَهُ كسولٌ — He's diligent in his studies, but his friend is lazy.

2. لكنْ is a variant of لكنَّ that can be immediately followed by a verb or a noun. It has no grammatical effect.

   أكرهُ الموز ولكنْ أحبُّ البرتقال — I hate bananas, but I love oranges.

بَل — rather, but actually

The easiest way to think about بــــل is with the English word 'rather'. Thus, it is used to emend a previous statement or add something that contrasts with the main clause. This works best when preceded by a negative statement ('It's not like this, but rather like that').

لا أدرس اللغة الروسية بل [أدرس] العربية — I don't study Russian, but rather [I study] Arabic.

إنّما — only, but moreover; however, but rather

As the book says, the core meaning behind **إنـما** is that of restriction or limitation (الحصر), which can be used to either affirm and specify ('moreover', 'but only') or correct and contrast ('however', 'but rather', cf. Ryding, 412). It should be used with complete sentences, either nominal or verbal.

إنما أنا بشر مثلكم — I'm only human, like you.

هو ليس طبيخا عظيما فقط وإنما هو فنان — He's not just a great chef; he's moreover/rather an artist.

لم أقابله وإنما أرسلت له رسالة — I didn't meet him; however, I sent him a letter.

Not … only, but rather … as well

Your basic structure is as follows:

Not { ليس ، لا ، لن ، لم } only { فَحَسْبُ ، فقط }, but rather { بل } … as well { كذلك ، أيضا }.

When setting up your negatives, use the appropriate particle: لــيـس with nominative sentences, لــم with the jussive for a negative perfect, لا and لن with imperfect verbs. Note that { فقط and فـحـسـب } are interchangeable, as are { كذلك and أيضا }.

Lesson 9: Although

There are two basic ways to say 'although' or 'despite': رَغْمَ (and its variations) and مع أنّ.

رَغْمَ ، برغمِ ، بالرغمِ من

You can use رغم in three virtually identical ways: رَغْمَ , بِرَغمِ , and بالرغمِ من. All three are followed by nouns or nominal sentences introduced by أنّ.

رغم مرضه = برغم مرضه = بالرغم من مرضه

رغم أنه مريض = برغم أنه مريض = بالرغم من أنه مريض

You can introduce the subsequent clause with the following kinds of words: nouns and pronouns, prepositions, negative particles, إنّ or هناك with a nominal sentence, and سوف and قد with a verbal sentence.

If this clause begins with قـــــد or إنّ, you must precede it with فـــــاء (see p. 5 of this handout); otherwise, it is optional.

رغمَ ميراثه الكبير { له / فله } مشاكل مالية — Despite his big inheritance, he has money problems.

رغمَ ميراثه الكبير فإنه له مشاكل مالية — Despite his big inheritance, he has money problems.

رغمَ ثروته الكبيرة فقد أفلس — Despite his big inheritance, he went bankrupt.

مع أنّ

مع أن sets up a nominal phrase, following the rules of إنّ وأخواته.

You can begin your next clause either with the same words described above (nouns and pronouns, prepositions, negative particles, هناك, إنّ, سوف, and قد), or with إلا أنّ + a nominal sentence.

مع أنّ الولدَ صغير فإنه شجاع — Although the boy is small, he is brave.

مع الولدَ صغير إلا أنه شجاع — Although the boy is small, he is brave.

A quick note about إنّ وأخواتها

إن وأخواتها are subordinating conjunctions that connect two phrases together. They include إنّ (indeed, that, reported speech), أنّ (that), لكـنّ (but), لأنّ (because), and لعـلّ (perhaps). They make the subject noun of the following phrase *accusative* (مـنـصـوب). If there is no explicit subject noun, you must attach a suffix pronoun (أنّـه). See Ryding p. 422 for more details.

قال إنَّ الطلابَ يتكلمون جيداً — He said that the students speak well.

قال إنّـهم يتكلمون جيداً — He said that they speak well.

Lessons 11 & 12: Causation

بِفَضْلِ and بِسببِ

You can use the phrases بـسـبب 'because of' and بـفـضـل 'thanks to' to indicate causation. These can only be paired with nouns. You can *never* say بسبب أحبّه or بسبب عندي مشكلة — nouns only.

نَظَراً لِ ، نَظَراً لِأَنَّ

نـظـرا لـ 'in view of', 'due to' works similarly to بــســبب in that you should follow it with a noun. If you want use a full sentence, say **نـظـرا لأنّ** + جـمـلـة اسـمـيـة. In both cases, the following clause can be introduced by فـ (the فـ is mandatory if the sentence begins with قد or إنّ, just like in Lesson 9).

نظراً لمرضه (فـ)لا يستطيع السفر — Due to his sickness, he cannot travel.

نظراً لأنّه مريض فإنّه لا يستطيع السفر — Since he is sick, he cannot travel.

نظراً لأنه مريض فقد ألغى سفرَهُ — Since he is sick, he canceled his trip.

لأَنَّ ، حَيثُ أَنَّ ، إذ أَنَّ

These are all—you guessed it—versions of إنّ وأخواتها. They all basically carry the same meaning of 'because' or 'since', and **لأنّ** is by far the most common. Whichever you use, you have to follow it with a جملة اسمية.

سأتحدث معه لأنّي عندي مشكلة — I will speak with him because I have a problem.

سأعطيه هدية لأنّي أُحِبُّهُ — I will give him a gift because I like him.

بِما أَنَّ ... فـ

This also carries the meaning of "since", but it can only be used at the beginning of a sentence and must be connected to the next clause with فـ.

Uses of حَيثُ (see Hans Wehr for more)

حـيـث + nominal or verbal sentence = where, wherever, in which. There are many other uses of حـيـث, but this is the most common.

أحبّ حيث أعمل — I love where I work.

أذهب إلى حيث الأحلام تتحقق — I'm going to where dreams come true.

حيث أنّ + nominal sentence = because, since. Works like لأنّ.

أحبها حيث أنّها لطيفة جدا — I love her because she's so sweet.

بحيث + verb = so as to, so that, so much that, to the point that, in such a manner that.

أعمل بحيث أستطيع أن أعيش — I work so that I can live (to the point that I can live).

Lesson 13: So that, in order to

With verbs

There are a number of particles and phrases that precede a verb with the meaning of 'so that' or 'in order to'. They include **مِن أجلِ أنْ** and **لـ ، كَي ، لِكَي ، حَتّى**. Note that these are all **نـواصـب**, that is, they make the verb accusative (**منصوب**), and that they are all interchangeable.

أشرب القهوة لأَستيقظَ / لكي أستيقظَ — I drink coffee to wake up.

There is also **كيما**, which does the same thing but does not make the verb accusative (remember **قبل ما** and **بعد ما**? Same idea.).

To say 'in order *not* to', i.e., 'lest', combine **كـيـلا ، لـكـيـلا** = كيلا and لكي with لا; or **لـئَلَّا** = إلّا with لـ. These are also **نواصب** and render the verb **منصوب**.

أشرب القهوة كيلا / لئّلا أنامَ في الصف — I drink coffee so as not to fall asleep in class.

With nouns

من أجلِ or **لـ** can be paired with nouns in an **إضافة** phrase to mean 'for' or 'for the sake of'.

أشرب القهوة من أجلِ دراستي — I drink coffee for the sake of my studies.

Lesson 14: As a result...

This chapter basically gives you a number of phrases that all express the same basic idea: 'as a result', 'therefore', 'hence', 'thus', and so on.

- **وعلى هذا / ذلك** ; 'therefore'
- **نتيجةَ** + noun ; 'as a result of'
- **نتيجةً لـ** + noun ; 'as a result of'
- **ونتيجتةً لهذا / لذلك** ; 'as a result of this/that'
- **ولهذا / لذلك** ; 'so, thus'
- **وبهذا / بذلك** ; 'so, thus'
- **وبهذه الطريقة** ; 'in this way'
- **ومِن هنا** ; 'hence'
- **ومن ثمَّ** ; 'hence'

There's really nothing to it. You can use ـف to connect this phrase with your next; however, this is optional.

Lessons 16 & 17: إِنّ وأخواتُها

Introduction

إِنّ وأخـــواتـــها is a term that describes a group of particles that act as subordinating conjunctions. As you've already seen, they are an essential tool for gluing sentences together. These chapters review their basic usage and describe a few phrases in which they are a necessary component.

Grammatically, the entire concept revolves around the distinction between nominal and verbal sentences. In a nutshell, **أَنْ** goes with verbs, **أنَّ** and **إِنَّ** go with nouns.

أَنْ and ألّا + verbs

1. **أَنْ** is normally paired with an imperfect subjunctive verb (فعل مضـارع منصوب), which is equivalent to the the verb's maṣdar (cf. Lesson 6). When used in this way, the tense of the verb agrees with the tense of the main clause. As we saw in the previous chapter, you can also attach لا to أن to indicate that something should *not* happen (ألّا ← أن , كيلا ← كي). Finally, verbs that require a preposition for their meaning (قدر على, أمر بـ ،) retain those prepositions.

    يستطيع أن يقرأ العربية — He can read Arabic.
    قدر على أن يقرأ العربية — He could read Arabic. (Note the tense)
    أمر بأن تذهب إليه — He ordered that you go to him (*i.e.*, he ordered you to go to him)
    أخاف ألا يأتي — I'm scared (that) he won't come.

2. You can also pair أن with a perfect verb (فعل ماضٍ)—technically, this is a different kind of أن and has nothing to do with maṣdars, but *ma'lesh*. This usually appears after بــعــدَ or some idiomatic structures the book introduces on p. 115: ما لبث, 'it was not long before...' ; ما أن, 'no sooner had he...', and it must be used when the event *has actually taken place* (cf. Lesson 6 for more examples).

    ما لبث أن نام — It did not take long before he slept.
    ما لبث هذا الضعف أن اختفى — It did not take long for this weakness to disappear.
    قابلتُهُ بعد أن وصل إلى المطار — I met him after he arrived to the airport.

أنَّ and إِنَّ + nominal sentences

The book sums up **أنّ** very well: "it may be followed by any word except a verb". If the subject of the clause is a declinable noun, such as كتاب or فكرة, it will be accusative (منصوب); indeclinable words, such as pronouns, prepositions, هناكَ, and others, will be 'considered' accusative but there is no visible change.

أظنّ أنَّ هناك مشكلةٌ — I think that there is a problem.
نعتقد أنَّ الكتابَ فُقِدَ — We believe that the book was lost.

إنَّ functions identically to its sister **أنّ** in terms of grammar, with a slight variation:

1. It is paired with the verb قال to indicate reported speech.

    قال إنّه يريد العشاء — He said that he wants dinner.

2. It appears at the beginning of a sentence as an opener, or to emphasize the subject a little; hence we sometimes see it translated as 'indeed', although this is often unnecessary.

Using أنّ and أن

The book gives a very good description of the many verbs that are often paired with **أنْ** and **أنّ** and what kinds of sentiments they convey (pp. 117–120). Definitely take the time to read it and consider the examples it provides.

An important element not to be overlooked is the use of the 'dummy pronoun' (**ضمير الشأن**) with أنّ → **أنَّهُ**. This will happen for a few reasons, such as if the verb is passive (أنّه يُــســمــح لــك — 'it's permitted for you'), or the phrase is impersonal (أنّه من المهم أن — 'it's important that').

Some common phrases with أنَّ / أن (lesson 17)

1. One of the most well-known constructs in Arabic is the phrase **من المهم أن** (it's important that...). By now, it should be clear that you can follow up this phrase with either a verbal sentence or a nominal sentence, depending on which kind of أن you use:

    من المهم أنْ تدرسَ هذا الدرسَ (جملة فعلية) — It's important that you study this lesson.
    من المهم أنَّكَ تدرسُ هذا الدرسَ (جملة اسمية) — It's important that you study this lesson.

2. There are, of course, many many other adjectives that can be used in this same way (theoretically any adjective or participle could work) and the book lists some prominent ones on p. 126, among them: من الصعب أن , من الجدير بالذكرِ أن , من الواضح أن , من المفروض أن , and others. *Learn these, they are very useful.*

3. To play with these phrases, treat the entire clause as though it were a noun, and then you can use whatever tools you normally use with nouns to move the phrase around in time or negate it:

    كان من المحتمل أن — It was probable that…

    سوف يكون من المفيد أن — It will be useful that…

    ليس من المفروض أن — It is not necessary to…

    ما كان من المتوقع أن — It was not expected that…

    لم يكن من الصعب أن — It was not hard to…

Lesson 18: As soon as...

There are two basic structures you can use to indicate as soon as, in both the perfect and imperfect tenses: **كَادَ، يَكَادُ** and **ما أنْ / ما إنْ**.

'On the point of' — كاد ، يكاد

كَــاد literally means 'to be on the point of', and you'll find it paired with an imperfect indicative verb (مــضــارع مـرفـوع) to say something *almost* happened. The tense of كاد will determine the tense of the sentence, while the auxiliary verb remains imperfect.

كادَ يستيقظ — He almost woke up.
كِدْتُ أذهبُ — I almost went.
نكادُ لا نتفقُ معه — We can almost not (=barely) agree with him.

As a negative, كــاد functions like the English 'hardly', 'scarcely', 'no sooner', 'as soon as', in the following way: "No sooner { **ما كاد ، لـم يـكد** } ... than { حَتّى }". As before, the auxiliary verb of كاد is imperfect indicative (مـضـارع مـرفـوع), while the verb that follows حتى will be either perfect or imperfect subjunctive, depending on whether it has taken place or not.

لـم يكَدْ يستيقظُ حتّى رنَّ الهاتفُ — He had hardly woken up when the telephone rang.
ما كِدتُ أذهبُ حَتّى رأيتُ صاحبي — As soon as I went, I saw my friend.
لا نكادُ نتفقُ معه حَتّى يُغيِّرَ موقفَه — As soon as we agree with him, he changes his position.

ما أنْ

The next easiest tool to use is **ما أن**, which works in a pleasingly consistent way:

Past: ما أنْ + perfect verb → حتى + perfect verb:

ما أن خرج الطلاب حتى بدأت السَماءُ أن تمطُرَ — As soon as the students went out, it began to rain.

Present/Future: ما أنْ + imperfect subjunctive → حتى + imperfect subjunctive:

ما أن أتكلّمَ حتى يقاطعَ كلامي — As soon as I speak, he interrupts me.

ما إنْ

The least common, and probably the one to avoid, is **مــا إنْ**. It only works in the present tense, and it makes the auxiliary verb jussive (مجزوم).

ما إن أتكلّمْ حتى يقاطعَ كلامي — As soon as I speak, he interrupts me.

Lesson 19: It was not long before...

This chapter basically gets you acquainted with the idiomatic use of two verbs, لـــبـث and مـــضـى, which, when used in the negative and paired with أنْ or حـــتــى, can be used to express the idea "it was not long before..." or "[he/she/it/they] lost no time in...". These verbs have slightly different meanings which will affect how they're used. The only major difference in how you use these two verbs lies in their respective meanings:

لَبِثَ ، يَلبَثُ means 'to hesitate, tarry, linger', or 'abide, stay, remain';

مضى ، يمضي means (among other things) 'to pass, elapse, or go by'.

Thus, لبث can take any subject, whereas the subject of مضى must be a period of time. Think of the former as "I/You/He/She/We/Etc. did not tarry long before..." and the latter as "[A certain period of time] had not passed when...". The sentence setup is outlined below.

فعل ماض	حتى	لبث	ما / لم	perfect
فعل مضارع منصوب	أن	مضى [مدة من الوقت]	لا / لن	imperfect

Here are some examples:

ما لبِثَ حتى انتقلَ — 'He did not tarry before he moved' = It wasn't long before he moved.

ما مضى وقتٌ طويلٌ حتى انتقلَ — 'A long time didn't pass before he moved' = It wasn't long before he moved.

لم نلبث أن وصلنا — 'We did not tarry before we arrived' = It wasn't long before we arrived.

لم تَمضِ لحظةٌ أن وصلنا — 'A moment hadn't passed before we arrived' = It wasn't long before we arrived.

لن ألبثَ أنْ أتصلَ بك — 'I will not tarry in calling you' = It won't be long before I call you.

لن تمضيَ ٥ دقائق حتى أتصلَ بك — 'Five minutes won't pass before I call you' = It won't be long before I call you.

If you want to describe an activity that was taking place prior to the main event:

1. Follow لبث with an indicative imperfect verb (like you do with كاد, see Ch. 18)

ما لبِثَت تقرأُ الجريدةَ حتى رنَّ الهاتفُ — She wasn't long in reading the paper when the phone rang.

لن ألبثَ أتكلمُ مع صديقي حتى أرجعَ إلى بيتي — I won't talk with him long before going home.

2. Follow مضى with {مصدر + على}

ما مضى شهر على سفري حتى فقدت محفظتي — I hadn't been traveling a month when I lost my wallet.

لم تمضِ ساعة على خروجه من الشقة حتى رجع إليها — Scarcely an hour had passed since he had left the apartment when he returned to it.

Lesson 21: Conditionals

The condition clause ('if') in Arabic is called the **شرط**, while the consequence clause ('then') is called the **جواب**. In setting up your conditional phrase (**جملة شرطية**), you first have to distinguish between two kinds of statements, *realis* and *irrealis*:

1. *Realis* statements are possible, that is, you believe that they *could* happen: *If you wait, I'll come. If my mother calls, tell her I'm sick. If I win the lottery, I'll buy a house.*

2. *Irrealis* statements, on the other hand, are contrary to fact: *If I were you, I wouldn't do that. If I had won the lottery, I'd have bought a house.*

Irrealis — لو

لــو is used for irrealis conditions, and it is followed by either a perfect verb (this includes **كــان** for nominal sentences) or **لم** with an imperfect jussive verb (**فعل مضارع مجزوم**).

The **جواب** is simple: **لَـ** (this is the **لَـ** of emphasis, **توكيد**) + a perfect verb (**فعل ماض**). If the verb is negative, attach the **لَـ** to the negative particle **ما**.

جواب	شرط	
would have — **لَفَعَلَ**	فَعَلَ	لو
would not have — **لَما فَعَلَ**	لم يَفعَلْ	

Examples:

لو كنت غنياً ، لَاشتريتُ بيتاً — If I were rich, I would buy a house.

لو كنت غنياً ، لَما حضرتُ المدرسة — If I were rich, I wouldn't go to school

لو جاء صديقي إلى الحفلة، لَرأيتُهُ — If my friend had come to the party, I would have seen him.

لو لم يجئ صديقي إلى الحفلة ، لَما رأيتُهُ — If my friend hadn't come to the party, I wouldn't have seen him.

Some complications. The process outlined above is the ideal method to follow; in practice, however, you're bound to see other usages, which include:

1. Following لو with أنَّ
2. Using فـ + an imperfect verb as your جواب
3. Deleting the لَـ before your جواب

In most cases, this is sloppy writing or it's serving some artistic purpose. Recognize it, but don't imitate it.

Realis — إذا

إذا is used to express the realis condition and indicates the sense of likelihood and probability; thus, it carries the second valence of 'when', especially in older texts: إذا جاء محمد could potentially be translated either as '*if* Muhammad comes' or '*when* Muhammad comes'. Like **لــو**, it is only paired with perfect verbs and negated with **لم**. The **جواب** can be anything: a perfect verb, an imperfect verb, or a nominal sentence; however, **فـ** is necessary in introducing anything other than a perfect verb.

جواب		شرط	
فَعَلَ		فَعَلَ	إذا
فَافعلْ / فَلا يفعلُ / فَقد يفعلُ / فَسوف يفعلُ / فلن يفعلَ			
فَإنّ / فَهناك / فَعليك		لم يَفعَلْ	

A note on tense. Although إذا is followed by a perfect verb, it should usually be translated with the present tense in English.

إذا مطرت السماءُ ، بقَينا في البيت — If it rains, we'll stay inside.

إذا مطرت السماء ، فسنبقى في البيت — If it rains, we'll stay inside.

إذا مطرت السماء ، فلن نخرج — If it rains, we won't go out.

إذا لم تمطر السماءُ ، خرجنا — If it doesn't rain, we'll go out.

إذا لم تمطر السماءُ ، فسوف نخرج — If it doesn't rain, we'll go out.

إذا لم تمطر السماءُ ، فقد نخرج — If it doesn't rain, we might go out.

إذا أردتَ الكتاب ، فاتصل بي — If you want the book, give me a call.

إذا لم تُرِدْ الكتاب ، فلا تتصل بي — If you don't want the book, don't call me.

Absolute conditionals — حروف جازمة لفعلين

إنْ belongs to a class of particles called أداة تجزم فعلَين, meaning that they render the imperfect verb of both the condition (الشرط) and the result (جواب الشرط) jussive, i.e., مجزوم. These words include إنْ (if ever), مَن (whoever), ما (whatever), متى (whenever), كلَّما (whenever), إينَما and حيثُما (wherever). There are a few important rules about these particles.

1. Straight jussive for absolute conditionals. When both the شرط and the جواب are used in the jussive, conditionality expressed with these particles is absolute and outside time; thus they are used to make categorical statements like the following: "If you strive [ever], you'll succeed"; "Whoever travels, learns"; "Whatever happens will be for the best"; "Whenever you come, you'll be welcome".

   إنْ تذاكرْ تتعلَّمْ — If you study, you will learn.

   اينَما يذهبْ نصتحبْه — Wherever he goes, we accompany him.

2. In the manner of إذا. Otherwise, you can use these particles with the same rules that govern إذا, which brings it back to a regular 'if' clause. In this case, you can use either فعل ماض or فعل مضارع مجزوم after إنْ, and your جواب can either be فعل ماض or فـ with any other kind of sentence.

جواب		شرط	
يَفعَلْ (absolute)		يَفعَلْ / لم يَفعَلْ	إنْ / مَن / متى / ما مهما / كلما / اينما / حيثما
فَعَلَ			
فَافعلْ / فَلا يفعلُ / فسَيفعلُ / فلن يفعلَ / فَإنّ / فَهناك / etc		فَعَلَ / يَفعَلْ / لم يَفعَلْ	

If not for…

لولا can be used in conjunction with a noun (that is, اسم / ضمير / مصدر) to say 'were it not for'. Like regular لو, it must take لَ with a perfect verb.

> لولا القاموس لَتَجننتُ — If not for the dictionary, I would have gone crazy.

> لولاكَ لَفشلتُ في الامتحان — If not for you, I would have failed in the test.

Even if, even though, although…

You are more likely to see these phrases occur in the second half of the sentence, and their usage is pretty straightforward.

وإنْ can be paired with a perfect verb to mean 'although, even though'

> استمتعتُ بالرحلة وإن كان الجو سيئا — I enjoyed the trip, even though the weather was bad.

ولو can be paired with nominal or verbal phrases to mean 'even if'.

> اطلبوا العلم ولو في الصين — Seek knowledge, even unto China [lit. 'even if it is in China']

> عَنزةُ ولو طارت — It's a goat, even if it flies

حَتّى وإن 'even though', **حتى لو** 'even if' and **حتى إذا** will be paired with a perfect verb.

> سأذهب إلى السينما حتى إذا قلتَ لي لا — I'm going to go to the movies, even if you tell me no.

> سهرنا حتى وإن كان علينا شغل كثير نفعله — We stayed up late, even though we had a lot of work to do.

> يجب أن نتكلم حتو لو غضبتَ مني — We should talk, even if you're angry with me.

If not, otherwise…

وإلّا is a contraction of إن لا to mean 'if not' and it can be followed by a perfect verb or فـ plus anything else.

> يجب أن تكونَ مستعداً في خمس دقائق وإلّا فسأمشي بدونك — You better be ready in five minutes, otherwise, I'm leaving without you.

> أنام ثماني ساعات كل يوم وإلا تعبتُ — I sleep eight hours every day, and if not, I get tired.

Provided that…

على أنْ is a simple phrase meaning 'provided that' or 'on the condition that'. It is followed by a subjunctive verb.

> يمكنك أن تأكلَ الحلويات على أن تأكلَ الخُضَرَ — You may eat dessert provided that you eat your vegetables.

Unless…

إلا إذا 'unless' uses the same basic rules as إذا.

> أنا مسافر يوم السبت إلا إذا مرضتُ — I'm traveling on Saturday unless I get sick.

Lesson 22: As for...

This is the easiest lesson in the book. To open up a new topic of conversation and give a comment about it, you can start with the word **أمّا**, which is followed by a noun of some kind [اسم ، ضمير ، مصدر etc.]; you then begin your comment with the particle **ف**.

أما صاحبي ، فهو يسكن في شيكاغو — As for my friend, he lives in Chicago.

عندي كتاب ، أما أختي فعندها كتابان — I have a book, [but] as for my sister, she has two books.

Lesson 23: Whether... or

This is the second easiest lesson in the book. To say 'whether (x) or (y)', use the construction **سـواء ... أم** with a perfect verb. Like any other declinable word, **سـواء** is contingent on its function in the sentence and can be مرفوع, منسـوب, or مجرور; however, in the majority of cases with this construction (and nearly all the examples in the book), it will be منصوب للحال. Here are some further examples:

أحببتها سواءً كانت تحبُّني أم لا — I loved her, whether she loved me or not.

أحبها سواءً أحبّتني أم لم تحبني — I love her, whether she loves me or not.

نحن عندنا مشكلة، سواءً كانت مقصودة أم غير مقصودة — We have a problem, whether it was intentional or not.

أنا سعيد سواءً زرتَني أم بقيتَ في البيت — I'm happy whether you visit me or stay at home.

If you're using كـان, sometimes you can drop سـواء from your sentence and flip the word order so the خـبـر كـان comes first. This is a nice rhetorical device; I like to think of it as 'be it (x) or (y)'.

على كل أحد المجيء، غنياً كان أم فقيراً — Everyone must come, be they rich or poor.

سنغادر غدا، ممطراً كان أم مشمساً — We're heading out tomorrow, rain or shine.

There are some cases in which سواء is occurs in the nominal position; when this happens, it's important to keep the أ particle that precedes أم (cf. Lesson 1), as demonstrated by the book's example below:

سواءٌ عليهم أأنذرتهم أم لم تُنذِرْهم — They have to do it regardless, whether you notified them or not.

سواءٌ أمحمدٌ يذهب أم عمرو فسيكون معك أحدُ — Whether Muhammad or ʿAmr goes, there will be someone with you.

And here's an example in which we use سواء as the خبر in a nominal sentence:

مجيء عمرٍ أم محمدٍ سواءٌ — Whether ʿAmr or Muhammad comes, it's all the same.

Lesson 24: Either... or

This is also a straightforward lesson. The basic idea is that you pair two negative particles against each other, such as لا ... لا or لم ... لم or لن ... لن. In affirmative 'either/or' constructions, you use the phrase إمّا ... إمّا. In some cases, you might negate the verb in the first instance, then its object in the second. Compare the following examples:

لا يقرأ العربية ولا يتكلمُها — He neither reads Arabic nor does he speak it (the verb 'speak' is negated)

لا يتكلم الروسيةَ ولا الصينيةَ — He speaks neither Russian nor Chinese (the direct object 'Chinese' is negated)

The book lays this out in a handy chart, which I will replicate in a slightly modified way.

Either ... or		
present / future	وإمّا / أو + [سوف] indicative	إمّا + [سوف] indicative (مرفوع)
past	وإمّا / أو + perfect	إمّا + perfect (فعل ماض)
nouns / nominal sentences	وإمّا / أو + أنْ / أنّ / اسم	إمّا + أنْ / أنّ / اسم
Neither ... nor		
present	ولا + indicative / ولا + noun	لا + indicative (مرفوع)
future	ولن + accusative / ولا + noun	لن + accusative (منصوب)
past	ولم + jussive / ولا + noun	لم + jussive (مجرور)
past (rare)	ولا + perfect	لا + perfect (ماضي)
nouns / nominal sentences	ولا + prep. phrase / noun	لا + prep. phrase / noun

As you might guess, all the regular rules apply; thus, for example, the مجزوم of لم is فعل; the منصوب is اسم أنّ; the أنّ, and so on. Of special note is the لا النافية للجنس, which is ناصب, hence: لا توصيرَ ولا تسجيلَ هنا 'No photography nor recording here'.

Lesson 26: Lest... for fear that

This chapter introduces three words that can be used in a *ḥāl* clause to express 'lest' or 'for fear that' in Arabic: خَشْيَة (the *maṣdar* of خَشِيَ, 'to fear, dread'), and مَخافَة and خَوْف (both *maṣdar*s of خَاف, 'to fear'). In this presentation, we'll look at خوف separately from the other two.

خوفاً من / على

The meaning of خـوف will vary depending on the preposition used after it; خـوفـاً مـن means 'fearing [of] something', while خـوفـاً عـلى means 'fearing for something'. It is therefore necessary to follow خوفاً with either على or من to clarify the meaning. If you want to use a verb, add أَنْ or أَلّا after your preposition.

هَرَبَ خوفاً من المجرم — He fled, fearing the criminal.

هرب خوفاً على حياته — He fled, fearing for his life.

هرب خوفاً من أن يموتَ — He fled, fearing that he would die.

هرب خوفاً من أَلا يَحَيَّ — He fled, fearing that he would not live.

خشيةَ / مخافةَ

Conventionally, خشية and مخافة are immediately followed with either a noun or أن / أَلا and a subjunctive verb; hence, there is no need for a preposition, and the *tanwīn* will drop to a single *fatḥa*.

تكلمت معه خشيةً أَن يغضبَ منك — I spoke with him, lest he get angry with you.

خَزَنَ مالَهُ مخافةَ الفقر — He saved his money for fear of poverty.

Lesson 27: Must

The final lesson of this book is a quick overview of the use of the phrase (مـن) لا بُـدَّ, which literally means 'there is no way out', i.e., 'certainly, inevitably'. By now, you should be familiar with your range of options and the tools you'll use for each one:

1. With a verbal noun: لا بدَّ من

2. With a verbal sentence: لا بدَّ (من) أَنْ + فعل منصوب

3. With a nominal sentence: لا بدَّ (من) أَنَّ + ضمير أو اسم

If you want to indicate the person affected by this inevitability, use the preposition ـــلـ ('it is inevitable *for him/her/us/etc.* that...'). Thus, (1) لا بد مـن الذهـاب (2) لا بد له مـن الذهـاب (3) لا بد أَنْ يـذهبَ (3) لا بد أَنَّهُ يذهبُ are all essentially equivalent statements.

There is actually another phrase of identical meaning that you can use the same way: (من) لا مُفَرَّ.

Finally, the book mentions the use of the prepositional phrase عـلى + ضـمـير to indicate necessity. As usual, you have the choice between a verbal noun or أَنْ plus a subjunctive verb to express the same idea, as follows: (1) عليه أَنْ يعتذرَ (2) عليه الاعتذارُ.

Congratulations! You have finished the book!